Industrial Units ClosedSealed in Govindpuri

2360. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names and numbers of industrial units closed^ealed in Govindpuri (Kalkaji) area on the plea of polluting Yamuna;

(b) the details of such units still running in Govindpuri area;

(c) whether the local SDM is hand-in-glove with such units still in operation; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to rehabilitate these units suitably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free Trade Agreements with Latin American Countries

2361. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased *to state:*

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to enter into free trade agreements with Latin American countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the anticipated increase in exports from India as a result of this policy;

(d) whether any incentives are proposed to be given to any Indian company who would be willing to export their products to Latin American countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Latin American countries are considered as an important destination for Indian exports. A

feasibility study is being conducted with the help of IIFT to explore the possibility of entering into a Free Trade Agreement with certain countries in this region. Further details and its implications for India will emerge only after the study is completed.

Proposal for New Site of EPZ in Assam

2362. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 654 given in Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 1999 and state:

(a) the response of his Ministry in regard to the proposal of Government of Assam for a new site for EPZ;

(b) the action plan finalized to set up the EPZ and target set; and

(c) the progress already made in this direction including financial outlays earmarked?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) A proposal for conversion of Export Promotion Industrial Park at Guwahati into an Export processing Zone (EPZ) was considered in consultation with Planning Commission and the State Government. However, the Government of Assam did not support the proposal. Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructure facilities in the existing EPZs, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the Country. However, EPZs can be established by the State Government or in the joint/private sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.